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Atty. Dkt. No. 067183-0186

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Yoshiaki SHIOTA  
Title: FAULT MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM FOR SWITCHING  
EQUIPMENT  
Appl. No.: 09/588,190  
Filing Date: 06/07/2000  
Examiner: Puente, Emerson C.  
Art Unit: 2184

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**AMENDMENT AND REPLY AND REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2003,  
concerning the above-referenced patent application as follows: